



Date: July 25, 2007
 Committee Meeting Date: N/A
 Board Meeting Date: August 2, 2007
 ACTION X DISCUSSION INF

BOARD MEMORANDUM

TO: Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority
Board of Directors

THROUGH: Michael T. Burns
General Manager

FROM: Bill Lopez
Chief Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: Employees of the Month for June, July and August 2007

RECOMMENDATION:

Recognize Administration recipients: Maria Martinez, Office Specialist II, River Oaks for June; Gino Spadafore, Senior Lead Construction Inspector in the Construction Division for July; and Gail Collins, Senior Transportation Planner, Marketing and Public Affairs Department, River Oaks for August.

Recognize Operations recipients: Susan Barth, Coach Operator at North Operations for June; Angela Snell, Coach Operator at Cerone Operations for July; and Larry Brownell, Coach Operator at North Operations for August.

Recognize Maintenance recipients: Rachel Pratti, Senior Track Worker at Guadalupe Maintenance for June; Pat Smith, Transit Mechanic, at Cerone Maintenance for July; and Steve Maloon, Transit Mechanic at Cerone Maintenance for August.

Recognize Steve Rogers, Maintenance Supervisor, Cerone Operations, as Supervisor of the Quarter for the third quarter of 2007.

BACKGROUND:

Maria Martinez, an Office Specialist II in the Records Management Department at River Oaks, is June's Administration Employee of the Month. An employee since 1999, Maria is considered a

conscientious and responsive worker, who provides outstanding service to her department. She uses her remarkable attention to detail and business savvy to constantly search for ways to improve cost efficiency. For instance, Maria recommended purchasing equipment at the end of its lease cycle, reducing cost-per-copy by 30% in her department! As another example of her dedication and high level of commitment to personal and professional growth, Maria will soon be awarded her Associate of Arts degree through VTA's Accelerated Degree Program. Throughout her eight years with VTA, Maria has been an asset and an outstanding role model to her team. Congratulations to Maria Martinez, Administration Employee of the Month for June!

Gino Spadafore, Senior Lead Construction Inspector at Vasona is July's Administration Employee of the Month. A 26-year employee of VTA, Gino is a hard working individual who shares his vast electrical knowledge, field experience and technical support selflessly with all departments. He is an active member of the Vasona Light Rail and Downtown Platform Retrofit projects, performing his duties in a professional manner, and above expected standards. Known by his coworkers as a genuine, knowledgeable and helpful individual, Gino helps to create a positive work environment for those around him, and is truly an asset to VTA. Congratulations to Gino Spadafore, Administration Employee of the Month for July!

Gail Collins, Senior Transportation Planner assigned to the Marketing and Public Affairs Department at River Oaks, is August's Administration Employee of the Month. An employee of VTA for over 12 years, Gail performs her work with very high standards. She led the coordination of the 2006 APTA Conference, effectively serving as liaison between VTA, the City of San Jose and the Convention and Visitor's Bureau. Gail has also been involved in overseeing or assisting with many events for VTA, including the light rail openings of Tasman West, Tasman East and Vasona stations. Her dedication to her work and her professionalism set a great example and help make VTA a better place to work. Congratulations to Gail Collins, Administration Employee of the Month for August!

Susan Barth, North Division Coach Operator, is June's Operations Award winner. Susan has been with VTA since 1987 and is a safe and dedicated driver, as indicated by her Million Mile Award for safe driving. A punctual and reliable employee, Susan serves as an excellent role model to her fellow Coach Operators. She has received numerous customer compliments for treating her passengers with courtesy and professionalism. Indeed, her caring for passengers sometimes goes beyond usual customer expectations, such as when she helped improve the living conditions of a mentally challenged, regular passenger. Susan upholds VTA's commitment to superior customer service and is very deserving of this award. Congratulations to Susan Barth, June's Operations Employee of the Month!

Angela Snell, Cerone Division Coach Operator, is July's Operations Award winner. Angela has been with VTA since 1990 and is a safe and dedicated driver, as indicated by her Million Mile Award for safe driving. In her role as Line Instructor, Angela shares her extensive knowledge of bus operations, serving as an excellent role model to her fellow Coach Operators. She has received many customer compliments for treating her passengers with courtesy, professionalism and compassion, with one customer referring to her as a "VTA Angel on the Road." Angela takes pride in her work and continuously strives to represent VTA in a positive and productive manner. She upholds the organization's commitment to providing excellent customer service and is deserving to be recognized with this award. Congratulations to Angela Snell, July's Operations Employee of the Month!

Larry Brownell, North Division Coach Operator, is August's Operations Award winner. Larry has been with VTA since 1979. Commended by his supervisors for outstanding performance, Larry

serves as an excellent role model to his fellow Coach Operators. Larry is known for being helpful and patient with his passengers. He has received a number of customer compliments commending his professionalism and safe driving skills, with one customer stating that Larry was “the soul of courtesy and caution on the road.” Larry upholds VTA’s commitment to excellence in customer service and deserves this recognition. Congratulations to Larry Brownell, August’s Operations Employee of the Month!

Rachel Pratti, Senior Track Worker at Guadalupe Division, is our Maintenance Employee of the Month for June. Rachel has over sixteen years of service with VTA. She is highly respected by her coworkers, frequently going out of her way to help others within and outside her department. Rachel recently went above and beyond her duties when she assisted at the scene of an accident involving a VTA light rail train. Her efforts to keep OCC dispatchers informed until authorities arrived, resulting in fewer delays in VTA’s light rail service. Truly an asset to Guadalupe Way Power & Signal Maintenance, Rachel is an outstanding and worthy recipient. Congratulations to Rachel Pratti, Maintenance Employee of the Month for June!

Pat Smith and Steve Maloon, Transit Mechanics at Cerone Division, are our Maintenance Employees of the Month for July and August. Pat and Steve both have over 29 years of service with VTA, and are the only two employees who are specially trained to work on the Zero Emission Buses powered by hydrogen fuel cells. Pat and Steve demonstrated their dedication to the Zero Emission Bus project by attending an intensive six-week training program in Canada. Upon their return, Pat and Steve put their training into action and helped VTA meet the challenges of the Zero Emission pilot project. In addition, Pat and Steve’s work has enabled VTA to participate in many events that showcase the buses to the community, where they shared their expertise by answering questions from the general public, representatives from other transit organizations, and public officials. Definitely assets to VTA’s Cerone Maintenance Department, Pat and Steve are outstanding and worthy recipients. Congratulations to Pat Smith and Steve Maloon, Maintenance Employees of the Month for July and August!

Steve Rogers, Maintenance Supervisor at Cerone Division, is Supervisor of the Quarter for the third quarter of 2007. Steve started with VTA in 1981. He is known for his calm and professional nature, and always strives to generate a positive work environment for his team. Steve is very thorough and detail oriented, consistently placing the needs of VTA at the top of his priorities. He is known as the person to count on to get something done, whether it is helping his staff in closing out an urgent work order, or managing a special project that involves service or repair on all motor coaches. Steve demonstrates effective leadership skills with his staff while meeting numerous daily challenges with enthusiasm and a caring attitude. Congratulations to Steve Rogers, Supervisor of the Quarter!

Prepared by: Mitsuno Baurmeister, Employee Relations Department